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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (25 Feb 69) FOR OT UT 684178 28 February 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 39th Signal Battalion (SPT), Period Ending 31 October 1968

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 325-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FORCE DEVELOPMENT
(ARMY) ATTN FOR OT UT. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION (SPT)
APO San Francisco 96291

SCCPV-SG-SB-C

11 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 39th Signal Battalion for Period Ending
31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities.

- a. Attached as inclosure 1 is a list reflecting the organizational structure of the 39th Signal Battalion.
- b. Below is a list of significant operations and activities that occurred between 1 August 1968 and 31 October 1968.
 - (1) The 39th Signal Battalion was engaged in operations during the preceeding quarter for a period of 92 days.
 - (2) 12 Aug 68, the 267th Cable Construction Company began installing an underground 300 pair cable between My Tho city and the MACV-7 compound.
 - (3) 15 Aug 68, the Long Giao basecamp received incoming rockets. One rocket struck in the motor pool area causing no equipment damage or personal injuries.
 - (4) 25 Aug 68, three PCM vans were placed on a concrete pad for semi-fixed installation at Long Giao. While setting up the PCM equipment, communications continued on the AN/TRC-24 equipment. Switchover to the PCM equipment was accomplished with limited downtime.
 - (5) 31 Aug 68, Bearcat received about 10 rounds of 107mm and 122 mm rockets. A 200 pair cable was severed with additional damage to a 50 pair cable.
 - (6) 1 Sep 68, construction of a shelter for the PCM vans was begun at Long Giao.
 - (7) 6 Sep 68, all circuits were removed from the 9th Inf Div switchboard at Bearcat and new circuits were installed to the Thai switchboard.

FOR OT UT
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(8) 9 Sep 68, new emergency lights were installed in the Bearcat DCO van and frame room.

(9) 10 Sep 68, the operations message center and control (SB-675) at Bearcat were moved to the VHF pad.

(10) 12 Sep 68, work was begun on a new operations building in conjunction with existing VHF facilities at Bearcat.

(11) 15 Sep 68, the VHF bunker at Nui Dat, housing one AN/TRC-110 and two AN/TCC-60's, was air conditioned using three 18,000 BTU air conditioners.

(12) 16 Sep 68, monitoring phones were installed in the main office at Bearcat to enable the chief operator to monitor calls.

(13) 25 Sep 68, construction was started on a shelter for PCM and switchboard vans at Xuan Loc.

(14) 30 Sep 68, selectors in the Bearcat DCO were regraded to change the first digit in the DCO from 2 to 3.

(15) 1 Oct 68, in a change of command ceremony, operational control of the 267th Cable Construction Company was transferred from 39th Signal Battalion to 2nd Signal Group.

(16) 1 Oct 68, signal maintenance personnel at Long Giao reconstructed two AN/MRC-102's, two AN/MRC-54's, three AN/MCC-6's and one SB-675. This equipment is being prepared for turn in.

(17) 1 Oct 68, a stand-by system, AAH-36 was installed between Bearcat and Long Thanh North, to become channelized in case of future damage to the 200 pair cable.

(18) 2 Oct 68, in a change of command ceremony, operational control of company B/52 was transferred from 52nd Signal Battalion to the 39th Signal Battalion.

(19) 5 Oct 68, the antennas used on the AAW23 system between VC Hill and Dong Tam were changed from ridge loaded horn to AN/TRC-29 dishes. This boosted transmit and receive signal levels and increased the quality of the system.

(20) 7 Oct 68, two teletype circuits, one a FDX between Bien Hoa and Bearcat, the other a HDX between Dong Tam and Bearcat were removed.

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(21) 14 Oct 68, a patch system was installed in the Vung Tau commcenter so that back-up equipment may be brought up without moving equipment.

(22) 14 Oct 68, the VHF bunker at Long Giao was completed.

(23) 14 Oct 68, the AAH36 system between Bearcat and Long Thanh North was converted to AAW36 by terminating both ends with AN/MRC-102's.

(24) 15 Oct 68, four 18,000 BTU air conditioners were dismounted from their trailers at Long Giao. Two were installed at the PCM vans, one was installed at the AN/GRC-26D shelter, and one was installed at the operations office.

(25) 19 Oct 68, approximately 20 rounds of 122 mm rockets hit in the Vung Tau Special Zone Area. No 39th Signal Battalion personnel were wounded or equipment damaged.

(26) 20 Oct 68, a new bus bar and ground were installed on the MDF at Bearcat.

(27) 23 Oct 68, a 12 channel PCM system CAW24 was installed between Nha Be and Saigon. Simultaneously CAW41, also between Nha Be and Saigon, was changed from 12 to 24 channels.

(28) 28 Oct 68, Dong Tam Base received approximately 10 rounds of 120 mm mortars. Four 39th Signal Battalion personnel were wounded. Three were treated and released and one was evacuated. There was no damage to equipment.

(29) 28 Oct 68, 1SG Jimmie R. Taylor assumed duties as First Sergeant of C/44. He was previously First Sergeant of HHD, 39th Signal Battalion.

(30) 28 Oct 68, the roof was replaced on the DCO at Bearcat. Roofing paper was also placed around the DCO to keep dust out of the switching van.

(31) 29 Oct 68, an audible alarm was installed in the DCO at Bearcat to indicate trouble in the DCO van.

(32) 29 Oct 68, the AAW91 (VCH-BCT) and CAW42 (LBH-BCT) masters were changed to drop and insert at Bearcat. Also, a 12 channel PCM system CAW98 between Bearcat and Plantation was installed.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 39th Signal Battalion for Period Ending
31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

2. Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendation.

a. Personnel: None.

b. Operations:

(1) Parameter readings to aid in system restoral.

(a) Observation: VHF systems often encounter difficulties requiring realignment or replacement of stacks.

(b) Evaluation: This system restoral is often time consuming.

(c) Recommendation: When a VHF system encounters difficulties, a set of radio parameters should be sent telephonically to company operations. This permits rapid initial evaluation of system problems by company operations and greatly facilitates system restoral.

(2) Protection of devanized shelters.

(a) Observation: Devanized shelters must be stored and maintained.

(b) Evaluation: Humidity and heat cause mold and rust inside the shelters.

(c) Recommendation: That the shelter vents be taped open, front and rear and 100 watt or greater light bulbs be installed inside the vans.

(3) A better ground.

(a) Observation: At Bearcat it was noted through tests on the grounding of the MDF and DCO that the buried PSP did not meet the prescribed readings needed for proper grounding of equipment. It was noted that an "AC" voltage was being read on the grounding cable feeding into the MDF.

(b) Evaluation: A good ground is necessary to prevent power hum on the circuits and to reduce shock hazard.

(c) Recommendation: Dig three holes 8 feet deep and 10 feet apart to form a triangle. Place old jeep or truck radiators into the holes and drive ground rods through the radiators in each hole. Tie the ground rods together and run the ground cable to the equipment to be grounded. This was done at Bearcat resulting in a ground of less than 5 ohms.

(4) Elimination of TD-204.

(a) Observation: Excessive noise is experienced on systems using AN/TRC-

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110 and AN/TCC-61 equipment at a drop/insert point or at a terminal.

(b) Evaluation: The clicking noise in the system was found to be caused by the use of a TD-204 in the circuit.

(c) Recommendation: That a 75 foot cable be installed between the AN/TCC-61 and the AN/TNC-110 whenever possible, thus eliminating the TD-204. This has been done throughout this battalion with excellent results.

(5) Protection of open splices.

(a) Observation: During underground cable installation at My Tho, an incompletely spliced was left open and unattended during lunch hour. During this time it rained heavily allowing water to enter the splice.

(b) Evaluation: Because water had entered the splice and traveled in both directions through the cable, 2000 feet of cable had to be replaced.

(c) Recommendation: That measures be taken to protect incompletely spliced while they are unattended such as wrapping with a poncho, or temporarily installing the waterproof splice cover box.

(6) DCO Records.

(a) Observation: When the TTC-28 was installed at Dong Tam, records were not checked to see if any re-wiring had been done. Consequently, trouble with several line finders was noticed as soon as the volume of traffic increased.

(b) Evaluation: It was found later by following the path of a call that several working mechanisms had been reversed. It was found later that the changes had not been corrected in any of the TTC-28 records.

(c) Recommendation: Recommend records be checked constantly and any changes to them be inserted immediately. Then if the equipment were to moved suddenly all changes would go with the records.

c. Training:

(1) Weapons Training

(a) Observation: During a recent alert at the Vung Tau Airfield it was found that not enough personnel were familiar with the M-60 machine gun to man six crew-served positions.

(b) Evaluation: In the event of ground attack crew-served weapons are tactically invaluable. Positioning and firing must be done by trained personnel.

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(c) Recommendation: That regularly scheduled classes be conducted on the M-60. Classes should include capabilities and limitations, maintenance, positioning and firing.

d. Intelligence: None.

e. Logistics:

(1) Issuance of fatigue cap

(a) Observation: Enlisted personnel are not given a clothing allowance. Further, they are not issued a fatigue cap for every day wear. The only cap available through supply is the "jungle hat" which the EM are not authorized to wear.

(b) Evaluation: The men are required to purchase their own cap without compensation. The heat, humidity, and extreme dust requires that the men frequently spend their own money on caps. Mechanics, cable installers and site workers are affected greatly by this situation.

(c) Recommendation: That supply channels make the "baseball" cap available to the troops or that the present policy be changed so that the "jungle hat" is authorized for wear.

f. Organization: None

JULIAN R. SLEEPER
JULIAN R. SLEEPER
EFC, SigC
Commanding

1 Incl
as

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(USASTRATCOM), ATTN: SCCPVOP
- 6 - CO, 2d Signal Group,
ATTN: SCCPVSG-C

SCCPV-SG-OO (11 Nov 68) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 39th Signal Battalion (CA)
for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 2d Signal Group APO SF 96491 27 NOV 1968

THRU: Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USA STRATCOM), ATTN:
SCCPV-OP, APO SF 96384
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO SF 96375
Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: CPOP-DT,
APO SF 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army (ACSFOR, DA), Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1968
submitted by the 39th Signal battalion has been reviewed and found to be
adequate with the following comments noted:

a. The 39th Signal Battalion was operational ninety-two days during
the reporting period.

b. Reference page 5, para 2c(1)(c), Weapons Training. It has been
suggested to all battalions of the 2d Signal Group, that weapons training
can often be accomplished by sending personnel to locally situated
infantry units for the required training.

c. Reference page 6, para 2e(1)(c), Issuance of Fatigue Cap. This
observation is in error. Each individual soldier is required to have
two fatigue caps in his possession upon arrival in country. Further,
fatigue caps are available through normal supply channels.

2. I concur with the Commander's Observations and Recommendations
portion of the report, except as noted above.

Russell R. Curington
RUSSELL R. CURINGTON
Colonel, SigC
Commanding

SCCPV-OP-CR (11 Nov 68) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 39th Signal Battalion for Period Ending
31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384 8 December 1968

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15.

2. The report has been reviewed by this headquarters and is concurred in as
indorsed with the following comments concerning referenced paragraphs:

a. Paragraph 2b(1), p. 4. This is one of many methods to control trouble
shooting. Any system of trouble shooting should be supplemented by a thorough
training program.

b. Paragraph 2b(3), p. 4. Each grounding area requires different depths
and since grounds are not permanent a good one should be rechecked at least
quarterly using a proper meter.

c. Paragraph 2b(4), p. 4. Noise may be experienced on PCM systems using
the TD-204 if it is faulty or misaligned. Elimination of the TD-204 is de-
sired in any event since it serves no useful purpose.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

William G. Skinner
WILLIAM G. SKINNER
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

Copy Furnished:

Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command,
ATTN: MCSCFS, SOC-OPS-RT, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

AVHGC-DST (11 Nov 68) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 39th Signal Battalion for Period Ending
31 October 1968, RCS CSPOR-65 (R1)

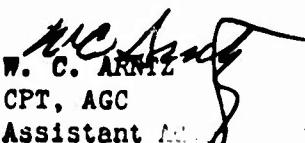
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 16 JAN 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: CPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned
for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1968 from Headquarters, 39th
Signal Battalion (SPT).

2. Reference item concerning elimination of TD-204, page 4, paragraph 2b(4)
and 2d Indorsement, paragraph 2c. Concur in the 2d Indorsement concerning
elimination of the TD-204 from the electrical system. The TD-204, a cable
combiner with Pulse Code Modulation (PCM) equipment, was designed to provide
the capability of cable line transmission or the capability to separate the
radio equipment, usually located on a prominent terrain feature, and the
carrier equipment located with the user. There is limited use of the TD-204
in Vietnam. When not used, the cable combiner will be retained in the
equipment shelter to maintain the integrity of the original configuration.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


W. C. ARNETT
CPT, AGC
Assistant Adj't

Cy furn:
HQ 1st Sig Bde
HQ 39th Sig Bn (SPT)

GPOP-DT (11 Nov 68) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 39th Sig Bn (CA) for Period Ending
31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 4 FEB 1969

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

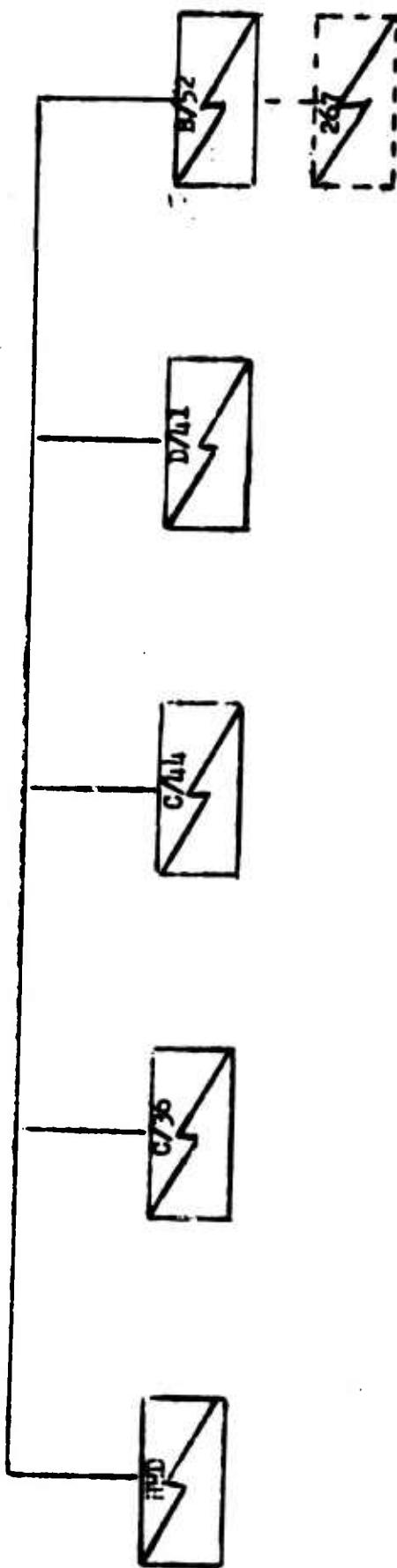
This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

C. L. Shortt

C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

39TH SIGNAL BATTALION



NOTE: On 1 Oct 1968 the 267th Cable Construction Company was transferred from operational control of this Battalion and B/52 was assigned.

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